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IP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 JAN 2006

WRITTEN ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH OFFICE

Internat. File No. PCT/DE04/001286

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Re Point V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting this statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: EP-A-1 219 825
- D2: US-B1-6 364 220
- D3: EP-A-1 170 501
- D4: US-B1-6 302 371
- D5: US 2001/040194 A1
- D6: DE 199 00 406 A
- D7: DE 40 03 227 C, mentioned in the application

Document D1 describes (Figure 1):

A fuel injector (1) having a magnetic coil (310), which cooperates with an armature (262) acted upon by a restoring spring (270), the armature forming an axially movable valve part together with a valve needle (266); a valve-closure member (264), which forms a sealing seat with a valve-seat member (250), being provided on the valve needle (266), wherein a valve sleeve (230, 240) is provided which surrounds the armature (262) and the valve needle (266), the wall thickness of the valve sleeve (230, 240) varying across its axial extension.

Therefore, the subject matter of Claim 1 is not novel (Article 33 (2) PCT). Incidentally, all features of Claim 1 are also known from the documents D4 through D7.

Dependent Claims 2 through - 7 do not include any features that, in combination with the features of any claim to which they relate, fulfill the requirements of the PCT with regard to inventive step; see document D 2 and D3 and the corresponding passages indicated in the Search Report.